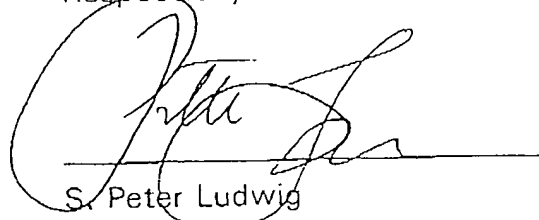


In view of the foregoing remarks, all of the claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

Dated: August 14, 2000

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'S. Peter Ludwig', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized with large, flowing loops.

Reg. No. 25,351

Attorney for Applicant(s)

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